



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **JURY CONVICTS TEXAS MEN FOR POSSESSION, INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE 1,000 KILOS OF MARIJUANA**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two El Paso, Texas, men were convicted by a federal jury today for being in possession with intent to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

**Pablo S. Marquez**, 48, and **Gustavo T. Luna**, 49, both of El Paso, were found guilty by a federal jury this afternoon in Springfield.

Following the presentation of evidence in the trial, the jury deliberated for about one hour before returning the guilty verdicts to U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr, ending a trial that began on Monday in Springfield.

The federal jury found **Marquez** and **Luna** guilty of possession with intent to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana on July 23, 2005, in Greene County, Mo.

The federal jury also found the co-defendants guilty of two forfeiture counts, which require **Marquez** and **Luna** to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds or any property used to commit the violation, including \$2,723 that was seized by law enforcement officers on July 23, 2005.

**Marquez** and **Luna** were originally arrested on July 23, 2005, when their 1996 Freightliner (being driven by **Marquez**) pulling a 1989 Dorsey trailer was stopped for a commercial motor vehicle compliance check on Interstate 44 in Greene County.

“At the time of the vehicle check, law enforcement officers discovered 250 bundles of marijuana wrapped in cellophane,” Graves said. “The total weight of the marijuana was approximately 5,100 pounds.”

Under federal statutes, Graves said, the co-defendants may be subject to mandatory minimum sentences of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David P. Rush and Randall Eggert. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)